



Center for  
Children's  
Advocacy

**New Flash!**  
June 2016

## Center Scores Important Legislative Wins!

Public Act 16-147 implements recommendations of the state legislature's Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee, which include **closing the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Pueblo, limiting criteria for entry into detention, and enhancing educational supports for youth**. The Center for Children's Advocacy's Students First Report formed the basis for the educational provisions of this legislation. For more information, email [mstone@kidscounsel.org](mailto:mstone@kidscounsel.org)



Public Act 16-123 ensures that the voices of youth in DCF care are heard, requiring **youth advisory councils at congregate care facilities, providing foster care family profiles for foster children and soliciting feedback from foster children** to help recruit, train and retain high-quality foster parents. The Center worked closely with a client who initiated this idea and came to the legislature to testify! For more information, email [zstout@kidscounsel.org](mailto:zstout@kidscounsel.org)

Public Act 16-188 directs schools to **post DCF Careline information to help children suffering from sexual and physical abuse**. In Connecticut, over 7500 children are victims of abuse or neglect each year. Posted information will include assistance that is available and how to access it. For more information, email [stavi@kidscounsel.org](mailto:stavi@kidscounsel.org)

Special Act 16-8 As the current NEMT vendor, Logisticare failed to meet performance standards outlined in its contract. This legislation addresses overwhelming problems with service, requires the new contract to be the result of competitive bid, and **ensures that patients receive adequate transportation that fulfills their medical needs**. For more information, email [broswig@kidscounsel.org](mailto:broswig@kidscounsel.org)

## Tune In! Important Upcoming Webinars

**June 10**

### Strategies to Help Undocumented and Refugee Children

Legal advocacy and community strategies to address access to education, special education, health care and mental health care.

[Click for details and to register.](#)

**June 15**

## Implicit Bias - Confronting Attitudes Beneath Conscious Awareness

### National Perspective

Bobby Constantino, Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice, St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn, New York; Founder, Model Gun Violence Prevention Program  
Hannah Benton, JD and Michael Harris, JD, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA

### Connecticut Perspective - Implicit bias in education, special education, school-based arrests, police-youth interactions

Karen DeMeola, JD, Moderator, Assistant Dean of Students, UConn School of Law  
Troy Brown, Training and Multicultural Affairs, Cultural Competency and Implicit Bias  
Ken Barone, Author, Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project  
Lara Herscovitch, Deputy Director, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance  
Leon Smith, JD, Director, Racial Justice Project, Center for Children's Advocacy

[Click for details and to register.](#)

There are a number of seats available to attend the Implicit Bias presentation in person. If you are interested, please email [ewilson@kidscounsel.org](mailto:ewilson@kidscounsel.org)

## Spring for Kids Raises over \$100,000 for Children!

More than 250 guests joined the Center at Hartford's Infinity Music Hall for our 5th Annual Spring for Kids Event. The evening was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests who together raised over \$100,000.



### Spring for Kids honors our 2016 Champion of Children award recipients

Jose Colon-Rivas, PhD, Director, City of Hartford Dept. of Families, Children, Youth, Recreation  
Barbara Hennessy, JD, Regional General Council, Aetna  
Scott Wells, Director, Options Employment and Educational Services

[Check out all the Spring for Kids Photos here](#)

## Lights On for 150 Children!

Over 150 children will have their utilities protected as a result of the Center's recent Keep the Power On clinics.

Families facing utility termination were served by clinics at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital and The Hospital of Central Connecticut. Pro Bono volunteers from Aetna's Legal Department, Pullman & Comley, Murtha Culina, and UConn and Yale Law Schools were trained by CCA attorneys to provide counseling and support for participating families.



Community Resource Team of Hartford, Community Action Agency of New Haven, Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Operation Fuel, 211 INFOLINE, Food Share, Center for Care Coordination at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Lulac Head Start were on site to

provide additional supports.

The Center's next series of utility clinics will be held in the fall. For information about the clinics or utility protections for vulnerable families please email [arosenthal@kidscounsel.org](mailto:arosenthal@kidscounsel.org) or [broswig@kidscounsel.org](mailto:broswig@kidscounsel.org).

## Winners!



Each year, RYASAP honors an organization with its **Above and Beyond Award** for work that goes 'above and beyond' to benefit youth and families. This year, the award goes to the Center for Children's Advocacy's Bridgeport Office - attorneys **Edwin Colon, Katherine Meyer, Leon Smith and Sabrina Tavi**.



Center for Children's Advocacy executive director **Martha Stone** received the **CREC 2016 Community Partner Award** for her dedication and intense commitment to the children and families in the CREC community.

**Stacey Violante Cote**, director of the Center's Teen Legal Advocacy Project, received the 2016 Women in Leadership Award from the Women & Families Center. The award recognizes leadership that promotes equity and quality of life through empowerment and independence.



Click Now to help Connecticut's most vulnerable children.

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Center for Children's Advocacy, 65 Elizabeth Street,, Hartford, CT 06105

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